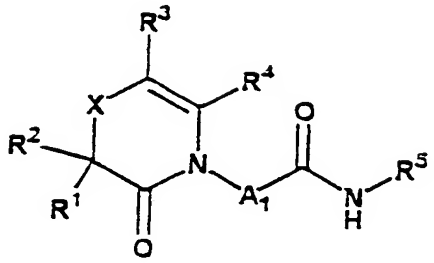
Claims

1. A compound represented by the following formula [I] or a salt thereof,



[I]

wherein

X is S,

R^1 and R^2, being the same or different, are hydrogen, lower alkyl, cycloalkyl or aryl,

R^3 and R^4, being the same or different, are hydrogen, lower alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl or an aromatic heterocycle,

R^5 is hydrogen, lower alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl or $-A_3-A_4-R^7$,

R^6 is hydrogen, lower alkyl, cycloalkyl, hydroxy, lower alkoxy, aryl, aryloxy or an aromatic heterocycle,

R^7 is hydrogen, lower alkyl, hydroxy, lower alkoxy, aryl, aryloxy, amino, lower alkylamino, arylamino, an aromatic heterocycle or a nonaromatic heterocycle,

n is 0 or 1,

A_1 is lower alkylene,

A_2 is carbonyl or sulfonyl,

A_3 is lower alkylene,

A_4 is carbonyl or oxalyl,

each lower alkyl defined above is unsubstituted or substituted by halogen, hydroxy, lower alkoxy, aryl or aryloxy,

each lower alkoxy defined above is unsubstituted or substituted by aryl, and

each lower alkylene defined above is unsubstituted or substituted by aryl.

2. The compound or a salt thereof as claimed in claim 1, wherein R^7 is a nonaromatic heterocycle selected from the group consisting of pyrrolidine, pyrroline, tetrahydrofuran, dihydrofuran, tetrahydrothiophene, dihydrothiophene, imidazolidine, imidazoline, oxazolidine, oxazoline, 4, 4-dimethyloxazoline, thiazolidine, thiazoline, 5, 5-dimethylthiazoline, pyrazolidine, pyrazoline, piperidine, tetrahydropiperidine, dihydropiperidine, tetrahydropyran, dihydropyran, pyran, piperazine, morpholine, thiomorpholine, homopiperidine, homopiperazine and homomorpholine; or R^7 is an aromatic heterocycle selected from the group consisting of pyrrole, furan, thiophene, imidazole, oxazole, thiazole, pyrazole, isoxazole, isothiazole, pyridine, pyrazine, pyrimidine, indole, isoindole, benzimidazole, benzoxazole, benzothiazole and quinoline.

3. The compound or a salt thereof as claimed in claim 1, wherein n is 1 in the formula [I].

4. The compound or a salt thereof as claimed in claim 3, wherein R^6 is lower alkyl, aryl or an aromatic heterocycle in the formula [I].

5. The compound or a salt thereof as claimed in claim 4, wherein R^3, R^4, R^6 or R^7 is an aromatic heterocycle selected from the group consisting of pyridine and thiophene.

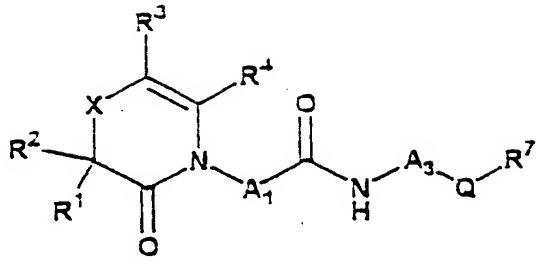
6. The compound or a salt thereof as claimed in claim 1, wherein R^5 is $-A_3-A_4-R^7$, and A_3 is lower alkylene which is unsubstituted or substituted by phenyl in the formula [I].

7. The compound or a salt thereof as claimed in claim 6, wherein R^7 is lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, an aromatic heterocycle or a nonaromatic heterocycle in the formula [I].

8. The compound or a salt thereof as claimed in claim 7, wherein R^7 is a nonaromatic heterocycle selected from the group consisting of pyrrolidine, dihydrofuran, oxazolidine, 4, 4-dimethyloxazoline, thiazoline, 5, 5-dimethylthiazoline, piperidine, piperazine and morpholine; or R^7 is an aromatic heterocycle selected from the group consisting of oxazole, thiazole and benzothiazole.

9. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically effective amount of the compound or a salt thereof as claimed in claim 1 as an active ingredient in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

10. A compound represented by the following formula [II] or a salt thereof,



[II]

wherein

X is S,

R^1 and R^2, being the same or different, are hydrogen, lower alkyl, cycloalkyl or aryl,

R^3 and R^4, being the same or different, are hydrogen, lower alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl or an aromatic heterocycle,

R^6 is hydrogen, lower alkyl, cycloalkyl, hydroxy, lower alkoxy, aryl, aryloxy or an aromatic heterocycle,

R^7 is hydrogen, lower alkyl, hydroxy, lower alkoxy, aryl, aryloxy, amino, lower alkylamino, arylamino, an aromatic heterocycle or a nonaromatic heterocycle,

n is 0 or 1,

A_1 is lower alkylene,

A_2 is carbonyl or sulfonyl,

A_3 is lower alkylene,

Q is -CH(OH)CO- or -CH(OH)-,

each lower alkyl defined above is unsubstituted or substituted by halogen, hydroxy, lower alkoxy, aryl or aryloxy,

each lower alkoxy defined above is unsubstituted or substituted by aryl, and

each lower alkylene defined above is unsubstituted or substituted by aryl.

11. A method of inhibiting chymase in a patient comprising administering to a patient in need thereof a pharmaceutically effective amount of the compound or a salt thereof according to claim 1, alone or in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

12. The method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the administering to a patient is carried out orally.

13. The method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the administering to a patient is carried out parenterally.

14. The method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the administering to a patient is carried out by applying eyedrops.